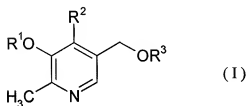


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

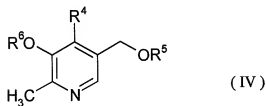
1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a ~~phosphate group~~ or a cyclic phosphate group bound to R<sup>2</sup>; R<sup>2</sup> represents -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -CHO, -CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-amino acid residue, or -CH<sub>2</sub>-OPO<sub>2</sub>H; and R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen atom, or -PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>.

2. (Currently Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 1, which is ~~selected from the group consisting of pyridoxine 3-phosphate, pyridoxine 3,4'-cyclic phosphate, and N-(4-pyridoxylmethylene) L-serine 3-phosphate~~, or a salt thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IV) or a salt thereof:

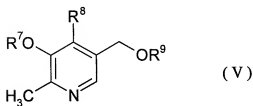


wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -CHO, or -CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, or represents -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -CHO, or -CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub> protected with a protective group; R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen atom, a protective

group of hydroxyl group, a phosphate group, or a protected phosphate group; and R<sup>6</sup> a cyclic phosphate group bound to R<sup>4</sup> which may have a protective group.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A composition for a cosmetic, a medicament, a foodstuff, and/or a feed comprising a compound represented by the following general formula (V) or a salt thereof:



wherein R<sup>7</sup> represents ~~a phosphate group, a sulfate group, or~~ a cyclic phosphate group bound to R<sup>8</sup>; R<sup>8</sup> represents -CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -CHO, -CH<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-amino acid residue, or -CH<sub>2</sub>-OPO<sub>2</sub>H; and R<sup>9</sup> represents hydrogen atom, or -PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing a vitamin contained in a cosmetic, a medicament, a foodstuff, and/or a feed from thermal decomposition and decomposition initiated by U.V. light by adding a compound represented by the general formula (V) or a salt thereof mentioned in claim 5 to the cosmetic, the medicament, the foodstuff, and/or the feed.

7. (Original) A composition for a cosmetic, a medicament, foodstuff, and/or a feed containing a compound represented by the general formula (V) or a salt thereof mentioned in claim 5 and at least one kind of vitamin, wherein stability of the vitamin is improved.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) A composition comprising (A) a compound represented by the general formula (V) according to claim 5, and (B) one or more kinds of substances selected from the group consisting of a whitening agent, an antioxidant, an antiphlogistic,

a circulation accelerator, a cell activation agent, and an ultraviolet absorber, which is used as a whitening agent, an anti-aging agent, and/or an agent for suppressing wrinkle formation by exposure to ultraviolet light.

10. (Original) A whitening agent containing (A) a compound represented by the general formula (V) mentioned in claim 5, and (B) arbutin.